Losses due to **SIM cards**

2500. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cellular companies are causing national loss of crores of rupees to Government by allowing the SIM cards for illegal communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken action against any cellular company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Some cases of illegal/clandestine telephone exchange operations have been reported in which telephones of various fixed and mobile service providers have been found being misused. As per the raids conducted by Vigilance Wing of Department of Telecommunications till 23.01.2005, the names of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services providers whose SIM cards were found being misused in illegal setup are M/s Bharti Celular Ltd, M/s Idea Cellular Ltd, M/s Hutchison Telecom East Ltd, M/s BPL Mobile Communications Ltd, M/s Spice Communications Ltd, M/s Hutchison Essar Telecom Ltd, M/s Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL).

(c) to (e) Instructions for curbing illegal/clandestine exchange operations have been issued to the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Provders from time to time. Whenever, non-adherence to the above instructions is noticed, explanation of the respective service provider is sought and appropriate action is taken within the framework of the Licence Agreement.